

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 AGR-05 AID-05 LAB-04 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 /114 W

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R 091610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALLS

1. I MADE FAREWELL CALLS ON MAJOR GENERAL OKAI, ACTING AS COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ON HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG JULY 9. I WAS RECEIVED WITH COURTESY IN BOTH CASES THOUGH ACHEAMPONG ACTED VERY NERVOUSLY.

2. OKAI MADE EXPECTED REMARKS REGRETTING MY DEPARTURE AND INDICATING HE HOPED I WOULD BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR GHANA IN THE U.S. I REFERRED TO SOME UNFINISHED MATTERS, THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT AND THE CHANCERY SITE/VALUATION QUESTION, WHERE THE BALL IS IN GHANA'S COURT. I ALSO REVIEWED REASONS WHY U.S WOULD NOT SIGN COCOA AGREEMENT. OKAI PROMISED TO LOOK INTO FIRST TWO ITEMS.

3. AT CASTLE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN FULL GLARE OF PHOTOGRAPHERS LIGHTS. ACHEAMPONG GAVE A SHORT STANDARD LECTURE ABOUT GHANA BEING BASICALLY A WESTERN COUNTRY WHICH WISHED TO BE TRULY NON-ALIGNED AND HE REPEATED WHAT HE HAS TOLD ME BEFORE, THAT GHANA WOULD NEVER GO "EAST" BUT, HE SAID, U.S. AS CHAMPION OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND AFRICA'S
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CONCERNS. GHANA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WISHED ALSO

TO BE FREE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT AND WISHED TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF AFRICA WOULD BE FREE. HE SAID LIBERATION GROUPS COULD NOT OBTAIN ARMS TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM THE WEST AND IF THEY COULD NOT GET THEM FROM THE WEST, THEY WOULD GET THEM FROM THE EAST. I REJOINED THAT THE U.S. DID UNDERSTAND AFRICA'S CONCERNS AND GAVE A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF OUR POLICY ON RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, EMPHASIZING SECRETARY'S AND MY OWN PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR POLICY. I SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ACHEAMPONG TO READ SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

4. I ASKED AT THAT POINT IF WE COULD HAVE A FEW MOMENTS PRIVATE TALK WITHOUT THE PRESS. HE AGREED WITH ALACRITY. I REMINDED HIM THAT WHEN I PRESENTED CREDENTIALS HE HAD ASKED ME TO WORK FOR U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF THE COCOA AGREEMENT AND FOR A U.S.-GHANA BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT SIGN THE COCOA AGREEMENT AND WHY, BUT ADDED THAT IF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAD TAKEN PACE, GHANA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED WITH SOME SYMPATHY. I SAID I REGRETTED VERY MUCH THAT THE OPPORTUNITY OF EXCHANGING VIEWS HAD BEEN LOST. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED IN A SOMEWHAT AGITATED MANNER THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN CALLED OFF BECAUSE HE WAS TRULY SICK, ADDING PARENTHETICALLY THAT "WE COULD HAVE HANDLED THE STUDENTS", AND STRESSING THAT THIS REASON SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE U.S. HE DID NOT BELABOR THE POINT, HOWEVER, AND ADDED THAT "THE SECRETARY IS WELCOME TO COME AT ANY TIME".

5. HE SEEMED PUZZLED WHEN I REFERRED TO THE QUESTIONS PENDING ON THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT ASKING SMC SECRETARY BEBRAH "DIDN'T WE TAKE CARE OF THAT RECENTLY?" NO ONE SEEMED QUITE CERTAIN WHAT HAD ACTUALLY OCCURRED, BUT HE INDICATED HE WOULD CHECK INTO THE MATTER. AFTER EXCHANGING BOOKS (200 YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY FOR FOURTH YEAR IN OFFICE), I LEFT WITH HIS GOOD WISHES.

6. COMMENT: ACHEAMPONG LOOKED VERY WELL BUT HE WAS UNUSUALLY NERVOUS AND HIS HANDS WERE ICY. WHETHER HE EXPECTED ME TO GIVE HIM A DIFFICULT TIME OR NOT IS NOT CLEAR, BUT HE CHOSE TO BE COURTEOUS, CORRECT AND SOMEWHAT COOL.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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